

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Insertions are shown by underlining and deletions are shown by either a strike-through or double brackets. Please amend the claims according to the following listing of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A wire guide, comprising:

an elongate member having a first portion with a first diameter and a second portion with a second diameter smaller than the first diameter, the elongate member defining a loop; and

a closure member having a sufficient length for closing the loop, wherein the closure member is fixedly connected to the elongate member at a plurality of spaced apart locations, wherein the plurality of locations are disposed adjacent to each other to form the loop, and wherein the closure member does not extend a substantial longitudinal distance beyond the plurality of locations.

2. (Original) The wire guide of claim 1, further comprising a covering positioned over at least part of the first portion and the closure member.
3. (Withdrawn) The wire guide of claim 1, wherein the second portion defines the loop.
4. (Withdrawn) The wire guide of claim 1, wherein the second portion defines only a portion of the loop.
5. (Original) The wire guide of claim 1, wherein the loop has a loop width that is greater than the first diameter.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the elongate member has an intermediate portion between the first portion and the second portion; and wherein the intermediate portion defines a taper from the first portion to the second portion.
7. (Original) The wire guide of claim 6, wherein the elongate member has a distal end; and wherein the loop places the distal end adjacent the intermediate portion.
8. (Withdrawn) The wire guide of claim 1, wherein the elongate member has a distal end; and wherein the loop places the distal end adjacent the second portion.
9. (Original) The wire guide of claim 1, wherein the second portion defines a portion of the loop.
10. (Original) The wire guide of claim 1, wherein the closure member comprises a cannula.
11. (Withdrawn) The wire guide of claim 1, wherein the closure member comprises a bond.
12. (Withdrawn) The wire guide of claim 11, wherein the bond comprises a solder bond.
13. (Withdrawn) The wire guide of claim 11, wherein the bond comprises a welded bond.
14. (Withdrawn) The wire guide of claim 11, wherein the bond comprise a molded bond.
15. (Withdrawn) The wire guide of claim 11, wherein the bond comprises an adhesive bond.

16. (Withdrawn) The wire guide of claim 11, wherein the bond comprises a coil.
17. (Withdrawn) The wire guide of claim 11, wherein the bond is formed using laser cutting techniques.
18. (Withdrawn) The wire guide of claim 1, further comprising a covering on a portion of the elongate member.
19. (Original) The wire guide of claim 1, further comprising a radiopaque marker on the elongate member.
20. (Original) The wire guide of claim 1, further comprising a radiopaque marker on the closure member.
21. (Previously Presented) The wire guide of claim 1, wherein the loop has a constant length as measured along a perimeter of the loop.
22. (Previously Presented) The wire guide of claim 1, wherein the elongate member has an intermediate portion between the first portion and the second portion, the elongate member being substantially disposed about the intermediate portion of the elongate member to define the loop.
23. (Previously Presented) The wire guide of claim 22, wherein the closure member is fixedly connected to both a distal end and the intermediate portion of the elongate member.
24. (Previously Presented) The wire guide of claim 1, wherein the elongate member has an intermediate portion between the first portion and the second portion, a distal end of the

elongate member being substantially disposed adjacent to the intermediate portion of the elongate member to define the loop.

25. (New) The wire guide of claim 1, wherein the closure member has a longitudinal length that is substantially less than an overall length of the elongate member.